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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1 (currently amended): A soft landing control system for a screeding machine for smoothing and screeding a concrete surface, said screeding machine including a screed head assembly having a grade setting device and a vibrating member, said screeding machine including a screed head support for supporting said screed head assembly, said soft landing control system comprising:

a control operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after said grade setting device is lowered to the desired grade level; and

an activating device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface in response to a signal generated by said activating device, said activating device comprising at least one of a timing device, a concrete sensing device, a sensing device for sensing a concrete surface characteristic, a sensing device for sensing a degree of cure of the concrete, a sensing device for sensing a degree of processing of the concrete, and a device for determining a height of said screed head assembly above the concrete or the desired grade level.

2 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said control is operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device via pivotal movement of said screed head assembly about a pivot axis extending generally along said screed head assembly and generally parallel to the desired grade of the concrete surface.

3 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 2, wherein said control is operable to pivot a level sensing device relative to a frame of said screed head assembly, wherein a tilt control of said screeding machine is operable to pivot said screed head assembly in

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response to pivotal movement of said level sensing device to lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface.

4 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 2, wherein said control is operable to pivot said screed head assembly about said pivot axis via extension or retraction of at least one actuator of said screed head assembly.

5 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said control is operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device via generally vertical movement of said vibrating member relative to a frame of said screed head assembly.

6 (currently amended): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said activating event device comprises ~~at least one of actuation of a user input, detection of uncured concrete at or near said vibrating member and detection of a device for~~ determining a height of said screed head assembly, said control automatically lowering said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface in response to a determination that said screed head assembly being is at a predetermined height above the desired grade level.

7 (currently amended): The soft landing control system of claim 6, wherein said activating device comprises a timing device, said control ~~is being~~ operable to lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface ~~after in response to a signal from said timing device indicative of a lapsing of a period of time following said activating event the determination that said screed head assembly is at the predetermined height.~~

8 (currently amended): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said activating device comprises a timing device, said control ~~is being~~ operable to lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after a period of time following ~~said activating event~~ one of (a) actuation of a user input and (b) a signal

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from one of a concrete sensing device, a sensing device for sensing a concrete surface characteristic, a sensing device for sensing a degree of cure of the concrete, a sensing device for sensing a degree of processing of the concrete, and a device for determining a height of said grade setting device above the concrete.

9 (currently amended): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said ~~activating event comprises actuation of~~ control is responsive to a user input, said control ~~having activating device comprising a timing device, said control and~~ being operable to lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface in response to a signal from said timing device that is indicative of a lapsing of after a period of time following said activating event actuation of the user input.

10 (currently amended): The soft landing control system of claim 1, wherein said ~~activating event device~~ comprises a sensing device for sensing detection of uncured concrete at or near said vibrating member.

11 (currently amended): ~~A The soft landing control system of claim 10 for a screeding machine for smoothing and screeding a concrete surface, said screeding machine including a screed head assembly having a grade setting device and a vibrating member, said screeding machine including a screed head support for supporting said screed head assembly, said soft landing control system comprising:~~

a control operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after said grade setting device is lowered to the desired grade level, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface in response to an activating event, said activating event comprising a detection of uncured concrete at or near said vibrating member, wherein said control receives an input from a vibration sensing device operable to sense the vibration at one of the concrete surface and said vibrating member, said control lowering said vibrating member in response to said control determining that the sensed said vibration is indicative of vibration at uncured and not previously screeded

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concrete.

12 (currently amended): A ~~The soft landing control system of claim 10~~ for a screeding machine for smoothing and screeding a concrete surface, said screeding machine including a screed head assembly having a grade setting device and a vibrating member, said screeding machine including a screed head support for supporting said screed head assembly, said soft landing control system comprising:

a control operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after said grade setting device is lowered to the desired grade level, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface in response to an activating event, said activating event comprising a detection of uncured concrete at or near said vibrating member, wherein said control receives an input from a vertically movable sensing device, wherein movement of said vertically movable sensing device is affected by the type of concrete or degree of cure of the concrete at which said sensing device is positioned, said control lowering said vibrating member in response to said input being indicative of said sensing device engaging uncured and not previously screeded concrete.

13 (currently amended): A ~~The soft landing control system of claim 10~~ for a screeding machine for smoothing and screeding a concrete surface, said screeding machine including a screed head assembly having a grade setting device and a vibrating member, said screeding machine including a screed head support for supporting said screed head assembly, said soft landing control system comprising:

a control operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after said grade setting device is lowered to the desired grade level, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface in response to an activating event, said activating event comprising a detection of uncured concrete at or near said vibrating member, wherein said control receives an input from a switch positioned in front

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of said grade setting device, wherein said switch communicates an input signal to said control when said switch contacts excess uncured concrete in front of said grade setting device.

14 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 13, wherein said control includes a timing device and is operable to lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface after a period of time following said activating event.

15 (currently amended): A The soft landing control system of claim 1 for a screeding machine for smoothing and screeding a concrete surface, said screeding machine including a screed head assembly having a grade setting device and a vibrating member, said screeding machine including a screed head support for supporting said screed head assembly, said soft landing control system comprising:

a control operable to adjust the level of said vibrating member relative to said grade setting device, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member toward and into engagement with the concrete surface after said grade setting device is lowered to the desired grade level, said control being operable to automatically lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface in response to an activating event, wherein said activating event comprises a detection of said screed head assembly being at a predetermined height that is indicative of said grade setting device being at a predetermined distance above the desired grade level.

16 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 15, wherein said predetermined height is determined in response to a laser receiver attached to said screed head assembly detecting a laser reference plane.

17 (original): The soft landing control system of claim 15, wherein said control includes a timing device and is operable to lower said vibrating member into engagement with the concrete surface after a period of time following said activating event.

18-55 (canceled).